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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: § Group Art Unit:  
**WAGNER, Ernst Werner** §  
§  
International Filing Date: § Examiner:  
**December 29, 2004** §  
§  
PCT Serial No.: PCT/EP2004/014903 §

Title: INERTING METHOD AND DEVICE FOR EXTINGUISHING A FIRE

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In connection with the above referenced U.S. national stage patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 371, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.